

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 - (currently amended)
Claim 2 - (canceled)
Claim 3 - (previously canceled)
Claim 4 - (previously canceled)
Claim 5 - (original)
Claim 6 - (original)
Claim 7 - (original)
Claim 8 - (currently amended)
Claim 9 - (canceled)
Claim 10 - (previously canceled)
Claim 11 - (previously canceled)
Claim 12 - (new)

1. (currently amended) A linear measuring device comprising:

a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to project outwards from said tape housing;

a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward tongue hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape with said forward tongue extending forwards therefrom, said forward tongue being pivotable between a retracted position in general parallel alignment with and contacting said measuring tape and an extended position extending outwards generally parallel with said measuring tape, said outer end of said forward tongue being generally free of projecting objects mounted thereon whereby said outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow openings;

at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape, an outer measurement of said at least two sets of measurements displaying the total extended distance of said measuring tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner measurement of said at least two sets of measurements displaying the total distance between said outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that outer and inner measurements are simultaneously displayed on said measuring tape; and[.]

said inner measurement including the length of said rear tail plus the length of said forward tongue plus the length of said tape housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of said rear tail to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of said measuring tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening ($L_{\text{Rear Tail}} + L_{\text{Forward Tongue}} + L_{\text{Tape Housing}} + L_{\text{Tape}}$) whereby the total distance between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue is shown by said inner measurement free of addition of the individual length measurements of each of the rear tail, forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously canceled).

4. (previously canceled).

5. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said inner end of said rear tail is hingedly mounted on said tape housing generally adjacent the lower surface of said tape housing, said rear tail pivotable between a retracted position generally adjacent said tape housing and an extended position generally parallel with said outer end of said measuring tape in the opposite direction therefrom.

6. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said inner end of said

1 rear tail is retractably mounted within said tape housing with said outer end of said rear tail
2 extending partially outwards from said tape housing when said rear tail is housed within said tape
3 housing such that said outer end of said rear tail may be engaged to withdraw said rear tail from said
4 tape housing thereby moving said rear tail into an extended position generally parallel with said outer
5 end of said measuring tape in the opposite direction therefrom.

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7 7. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein:

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9 said forward tongue is hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape;

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11 said inner end of said rear tail is hingedly mounted on said tape housing generally adjacent the lower
12 surface of said tape housing; and

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14 said hinged connection of said forward tongue and said hinged connection of said rear tail each
15 including hinge stop means to restrict rotation of said forward tongue and said rear tail
16 beyond an extended position for each wherein both said forward tongue and said rear tail are
17 generally parallel with said outer end of said measuring tape for facilitating accurate
18 measuring of inner measurements of objects to be measured.

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20 8. (currently amended) A linear measuring device comprising:

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22 a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

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24 a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral
25 configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

26
27 an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length
28 as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail pivotably mounted on

1 said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to
2 project outwards from said tape housing;

3
4 a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward
5 tongue pivotably mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape, said outer end of said
6 forward tongue being generally free of projecting objects mounted thereon whereby said
7 outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow openings, said
8 forward tongue pivotable between a retracted position contacting said measuring tape and
9 an extended position extending outwards from said measuring tape;

10
11 at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape, an outer measurement of said
12 at least two sets of measurements displaying the total extended distance of said measuring
13 tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner measurement of said at least
14 two sets of measurements displaying the total distance between said outer end of said rear
15 tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that outer and inner measurements are
16 simultaneously displayed on said measuring tape; and[.]

17
18 said inner measurement including the length of said rear tail plus the length of said forward tongue
19 plus the length of said tape housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of
20 said rear tail to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of said measuring tape from
21 said outer end to said tape outlet opening ($L_{\text{Rear Tail}} + L_{\text{Forward Tongue}} + L_{\text{Tape Housing}} + L_{\text{Tape}}$) whereby
22 the total distance between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said forward
23 tongue is shown by said inner measurement free of addition of the individual length
24 measurements of each of the rear tail, forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.

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26 9. (canceled).

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28 10. (previously canceled).

11. (previously canceled).

12. (new) A linear measuring device comprising:

a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to project outwards from said tape housing;

a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward tongue hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape with said forward tongue extending forwards therefrom, said forward tongue being pivotable between a retracted position in general parallel alignment with and contacting said measuring tape and an extended position extending outwards generally parallel with said measuring tape, said outer end of said forward tongue being free of projecting objects mounted thereon whereby said outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow openings;

at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape, an outer measurement of said at least two sets of measurements displaying the total extended distance of said measuring tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner measurement of said at least two sets of measurements displaying the total distance between said outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that outer and inner measurements are simultaneously displayed on said measuring tape.